

Let us not forget: [Amendment 1 - Freedom of Religion, Press, and Expression](#)
“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a [redress](#) of grievances.”

In our local Michigan communities, the noncommercial cable access channels deliver more original locally made shows than all the commercial television stations combined. We need to protect localism in the media.

Local cable access channels reflect the diversity of local communities. They provide noncommercial programming for seniors, for the disabled, for youth, multi-lingual programming for ethnic communities, and others that are often neglected by the commercial media.

In our communities, local cable access provides the only coverage of local government. Eliminating local cable will reduce the opportunity for citizens to stay informed about local government issues.

Cable and local public access centers are the only means by which individuals and non-Profit organizations can freely or affordably access the tools and training to produce their own programming and to express their own point-of-view through the media.

Democracy is at it's best when the widest range of ideas and opinions are accessible. Local cable access is a rich "marketplace of ideas", and plays an important role in our democratic process.
